

**SSGIC Meeting  
31 May 2001**

**Location:**

Computer Lab, Bakersfield BLM Office  
3801 Pegasus Drive  
Bakersfield, CA

**Participants:**

Name	Agency	Position	E-mail	Phone
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**Meeting Purpose:**

- 1) Update SSGIC participants on progress of different workgroups including project management, data development, analysis, and interagency fuels planning.
- 2) Review SSGIC DRAFT Web site and provide feedback. Make who, what, when, where, and why decisions.
- 3) Increase familiarity with ArcIMS and dynamic mapping capabilities. Target participants for training.
- 4) Identify specifications for contract to develop Special Management Zones GIS coverage.
- 5) Understand any shortcomings of our existing planning process and identify ways to improve.

## **Project Update – Pat Lineback**

### Staffing

- Project manager (new) GS-11 and GIS technician GS 7/9 will be hired. Recruitment is underway and we hope to have positions announced in the next two weeks.
- Goal is to fill both positions by mid-July, 2001
- Positions will be located at NPS (Ash Mtn headquarters). Work space is being configured to accommodate the two positions

### Interagency Agreement

- All parties have agreed to sign the agreement but where the memo is located in routing path is currently unknown
- **ACTION** - Each agency needs to check with their signatory to find out if they have signed the agreement and get back with Pat Lineback.

### Project Schedule

- We have received a one-year extension for this project from Joint Fire Sciences Board until December 2002

### MOU with USGS

- A draft is currently being reviewed by agreements staff with USGS Denver and NPS San Francisco.
- No money will be exchanged directly through this agreement; USGS will house and maintain the server and the SSGIC project will manage the website. Agreement to be for three years. Contact Pat Lineback if you want to see a copy of the DRAFT agreement.

## **FGDC Metadata/ Data Catalogs discussion – Rob Ball, Kern Council of Governments**

- Need to coordinate with SJV Council of Government Directors Association
- Also investigate potential for using CERES metadata system (URL – [ceres.ca.gov](http://ceres.ca.gov)); goal is to catalogue data in one location and provide online access to metadata and data. Identified as a task for the SSGIC Natural Resource Program Manager to investigate the potential for using the CERES metadata system. Local data is also available through this site.
- The 8 counties of the SJV are implementing the US Army COE standard for publishing and storing data. Training is being offered at CSUF, June 6,7 on Federal Spatial Data Standards.
- Hiring a contractor to do a search looking for data sources over the Web to support CEQA checklist and environmental assessments.

## **Analysis Group Update – Jeff Manley**

- Basic Analysis process to be followed determined at interagency May 2000 workshop.
- Another meeting held last February focused on individual parts of analysis process and determine specific tasks needing completion.

### Ecological Condition – Tony Caprio

- Decided on vegetation classes to use for project area based on six different vegetation data sources (Sierra NF, Inyo NF, Sequoia NF, Seq/Kings NP's, GAP vegetation, Hardwood Data)
- Assigned broad fire regime class to each vegetation type within project area (very high, high, moderate, low, very low, none or erratic, and other) – Tony now has a table representing those combined classes.
- Gaps in CDF and Kern Co. fire history layer; they are attempting to update. BLM polygon data only goes back 10 years. Maria Soto to contact Will Hanna and status of the Kern County fire history data. CDF is currently updating fire history layer for the State. They will even digitize fire history data if you want to send it to Mark Rosenberg.
- BLM fire history only goes back 10 years; may be maps for larger fires back 17 years in archives that could be digitized (but most are probably captured in interagency/CDF records)

- **ACTION** – Tony will need to meet with each agency (either individually or as a group) to ‘validate’ the fire regimes associated with each vegetation type.
- Need to discuss how to handle different management activities (grazing, timber harvest) to better represent current conditions. FRID in the current model does not incorporate this information into the analysis.

#### Asset Analyzer – Robin Marose

- Began search for available data but lost momentum after meeting
- **ACTION** - Would like to select a small subset of values to work on with a smaller group with shorter timeframes; decided to focus on housing and hydropower. Robin is the lead.
- Housing – use existing data and check with ongoing efforts.
- Hydropower – needs validation by each agency; may try and use ArcIMS to validate the hydro information.

#### Hazard – Brent Skaggs

- Difficulty finding good RAWs information/metadata. It may require site visits to some of the RAWs stations to collect basic site information (eg. Elevation, aspect, etc.). We know there are at least 14 RAWs stations within the SSGIC watersheds.
- Had discrepancy in FLAMMAP output for Sequoia Forest run (need to check with Aaron); need to validate; RAWs do not provide live fuels information which is an input requirement of FLAMMAP.
- Need to discuss crown fire themes
- Brent felt that we weren’t too far off from being able to do a FLAMMAP analysis. He will corroborate his FireFamily Plus run with Don Carlton.

#### Overview of SSGIC Website – Pat Lineback/John Guthrie

- Review of SSGIC goals and customer priorities (handout)
- Website walk-through. The SSGIC website is operational but still has much work to be done. The basic framework for the site is complete. Get any comments/criticisms to Pat Lineback. The URL is [ssgic.cr.usgs.gov](http://ssgic.cr.usgs.gov). Check it out.
- ArcIMS (Internet Mapping Service) runs off of a processor therefore the access time varies greatly
- **ACTION** – Add local agency webpage links at bottom of homepage; leave top icon links to agency pages (leave Kern County alone)
- Need standard PDF map products for some of the major analysis being completed in addition to serving up in ArcIMS.
- Explore integrating asset analyzer into ArcIMS. This will be another task assigned to the SSGIC Project Manager.
- VERY IMPORTANT ACTION ☺ – Create place name/landmark label shape files for each watershed (BLM – Caliente/Mojave/Kern (Lead – Larry Vredenberg), NPS – Kaweah (Lead – Pat Lineback), USFS – Kings, (Lead Diane Travis) postponing Tule. These label files will be frequently used as a “standard” for watershed level map services.
- End of day demonstration of ArcIMS Feature Service to make edit notes and feature change notes on data inaccuracies/changes needed to geospatial data. This ArcIMS is not “proven” or has bugs in the practical world. However, it has tremendous potential to improve our ability to spatially collaborate.

#### Special Management Zones – Pat Lineback

- We need to explore need for and scope of special management zones and how it would be used by the Interagency Fuels Planning group; This will be a task for program manager. No work to be completed on this data layer for now.

## **Analysis of Goals, Progress, Problems, Solutions**

Problems encountered thus far.

- Turnover of participants
- Competing priorities
- Lack of follow-through on assigned tasks
- Communication barriers for seamless flow of information between interagency cooperators
- Unrealistic expectations have been established.
- Lack of accountability
- Lack of available technical expertise
- No chain of command in the SSGIC organizational structure

Solutions

- Dedicated project manager and GIS technician
- Revisit goals and make sure they're realistic
- Create strategic partnerships that work (e.g. USGS/NPS agreement to jointly manage and develop a Web Server and map services site)

Priorities

- The Program Manager will need to quickly organize and prioritize list of tasks – *High*
- Need to complete the analyses so that we can get to the interagency fuels planning stage (FRID, FLAMMAP, FOA, Asset Analyzer) – *High*
- Coordination within SSGIC group – *High*
- Learn about external efforts and coordinate if useful for group – *Moderate*

## **Program Manager Tasks/Priorities**

- Coordination within SSGIS and explore SJV COG Dir Assn – Low/Moderate
- Investigate potential for using CERES metadata system – *High*
- T&E methodology
- Explore potential for creating good quality maps using ArcIMS
- Explore integration of Asset Analyzer into ArcIMS – *launch initiative in November, 2001?*
- Scope what Special Management Zones should be and how important to focus resources on this data layer.